

Proverbs 27-29, 2 Corinthians 10(New King James Version)

Proverbs 27

¹ Do not boast about tomorrow,
For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

² Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth;
A stranger, and not your own lips.

³ A stone *is* heavy and sand *is* weighty,
But a fool's wrath *is* heavier than both of them.

⁴ Wrath *is* cruel and anger a torrent,
But who *is* able to stand before jealousy?

⁵ Open rebuke *is* better
Than love carefully concealed.

⁶ Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend,
But the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.

⁷ A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb,
But to a hungry soul every bitter thing *is* sweet.

⁸ Like a bird that wanders from its nest
Is a man who wanders from his place.

⁹ Ointment and perfume delight the heart,
And the sweetness of a man's friend *gives delight* by hearty counsel.

¹⁰ Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend,
Nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity;
Better *is* a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.

¹¹ My son, be wise, and make my heart glad,
That I may answer him who reproaches me.

¹² A prudent *man* foresees evil *and* hides himself;
The simple pass on *and* are punished.

¹³ Take the garment of him who is surety for a stranger,
And hold it in pledge *when* he is surety for a seductress.

¹⁴ He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning,
It will be counted a curse to him.

¹⁵ A continual dripping on a very rainy day
And a contentious woman are alike;

¹⁶ Whoever restrains her restrains the wind,
And grasps oil with his right hand.

¹⁷ As iron sharpens iron,
So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

¹⁸ Whoever keeps the fig tree will eat its fruit;
So he who waits on his master will be honored.

¹⁹ As in water face *reflects* face,
So a man's heart *reveals* the man.

²⁰ Hell^[a] and Destruction^[b] are never full;
So the eyes of man are never satisfied.

²¹ The refining pot *is* for silver and the furnace for gold,
And a man *is valued* by what others say of him.

²² Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain,
Yet his foolishness will not depart from him.

²³ Be diligent to know the state of your flocks,
And attend to your herds;

²⁴ For riches *are* not forever,

Nor does a crown *endure* to all generations.

²⁵ *When* the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself,
And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in,

²⁶ The lambs *will provide* your clothing,

And the goats the price of a field;

²⁷ *You shall have* enough goats' milk for your food,

For the food of your household,

And the nourishment of your maidservants.

Proverbs 28

¹ The wicked flee when no one pursues,
But the righteous are bold as a lion.

² Because of the transgression of a land, many *are* its princes;
But by a man of understanding *and* knowledge
Right will be prolonged.

³ A poor man who oppresses the poor
Is like a driving rain which leaves no food.

⁴ Those who forsake the law praise the wicked,
But such as keep the law contend with them.

⁵ Evil men do not understand justice,
But those who seek the LORD understand all.

⁶ Better *is* the poor who walks in his integrity
Than one perverse *in his* ways, though he *be* rich.

⁷ Whoever keeps the law *is* a discerning son,
But a companion of gluttons shames his father.

⁸ One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion
Gathers it for him who will pity the poor.

⁹ One who turns away his ear from hearing the law,
Even his prayer *is* an abomination.

¹⁰ Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil way,
He himself will fall into his own pit;
But the blameless will inherit good.

¹¹ The rich man *is* wise in his own eyes,
But the poor who has understanding searches him out.

¹² When the righteous rejoice, *there is* great glory;
But when the wicked arise, men hide themselves.

¹³ He who covers his sins will not prosper,
But whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy.

¹⁴ Happy *is* the man who is always reverent,
But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

¹⁵ *Like* a roaring lion and a charging bear
Is a wicked ruler over poor people.

¹⁶ A ruler who lacks understanding *is* a great oppressor,
But he who hates covetousness will prolong *his* days.

¹⁷ A man burdened with bloodshed will flee into a pit;
Let no one help him.

¹⁸ Whoever walks blamelessly will be saved,
But *he who is* perverse *in his* ways will suddenly fall.

¹⁹ He who tills his land will have plenty of bread,
But he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough!

²⁰ A faithful man will abound with blessings,
But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

²¹ To show partiality *is* not good,
Because for a piece of bread a man will transgress.

²² A man with an evil eye hastens after riches,
And does not consider that poverty will come upon him.

²³ He who rebukes a man will find more favor afterward
Than he who flatters with the tongue.

²⁴ Whoever robs his father or his mother,
And says, “*It is* no transgression,”
The same *is* companion to a destroyer.

²⁵ He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife,
But he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered.

²⁶ He who trusts in his own heart is a fool,
But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.

²⁷ He who gives to the poor will not lack,
But he who hides his eyes will have many curses.

²⁸ When the wicked arise, men hide themselves;
But when they perish, the righteous increase.

Proverbs 29

¹ He who is often rebuked, *and* hardens *his* neck,
Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

² When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice;
But when a wicked *man* rules, the people groan.

³ Whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice,
But a companion of harlots wastes *his* wealth.

⁴ The king establishes the land by justice,
But he who receives bribes overthrows it.

⁵ A man who flatters his neighbor
Spreads a net for his feet.

⁶ By transgression an evil man is snared,
But the righteous sings and rejoices.

⁷ The righteous considers the cause of the poor,
But the wicked does not understand *such* knowledge.

⁸ Scoffers set a city aflame,
But wise *men* turn away wrath.

⁹ *If* a wise man contends with a foolish man,
Whether *the fool* rages or laughs, *there is* no peace.

¹⁰ The bloodthirsty hate the blameless,
But the upright seek his well-being.^[c]

¹¹ A fool vents all his feelings,^[d]
But a wise *man* holds them back.

¹² If a ruler pays attention to lies,
All his servants *become* wicked.

¹³ The poor *man* and the oppressor have this in common:
The LORD gives light to the eyes of both.

¹⁴ The king who judges the poor with truth,
His throne will be established forever.

¹⁵ The rod and rebuke give wisdom,
But a child left *to himself* brings shame to his mother.

¹⁶ When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases;
But the righteous will see their fall.

¹⁷ Correct your son, and he will give you rest;
Yes, he will give delight to your soul.

¹⁸ Where *there is* no revelation,^[e] the people cast off restraint;
But happy *is* he who keeps the law.

¹⁹ A servant will not be corrected by mere words;
For though he understands, he will not respond.

²⁰ Do you see a man hasty in his words?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

²¹ He who pampers his servant from childhood
Will have him as a son in the end.

²² An angry man stirs up strife,
And a furious man abounds in transgression.

²³ A man's pride will bring him low,
But the humble in spirit will retain honor.

²⁴ Whoever is a partner with a thief hates his own life;
He swears to tell the truth,^[f] but reveals nothing.

²⁵ The fear of man brings a snare,
But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

²⁶ Many seek the ruler's favor,
But justice for man *comes* from the LORD.

²⁷ An unjust man *is* an abomination to the righteous,
And *he who is* upright in the way *is* an abomination to the wicked.

2 Corinthians 10

The Spiritual War

¹ Now I, Paul, myself *am* pleading with *you* by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you. ² But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. ³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Reality of Paul's Authority

⁷ Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he *is* Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we *are* Christ's.^[a] ⁸ For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us^[b] for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed— ⁹ lest I seem to terrify you by letters. ¹⁰ "For *his* letters," they say, "*are* weighty and powerful, but *his* bodily

presence *is* weak, and *his* speech contemptible.”¹¹ Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such *we will* also *be* in deed when we are present.

Limits of Paul’s Authority

¹² For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. ¹³ We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you. ¹⁴ For we are not overextending ourselves (as though *our authority* did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ; ¹⁵ not boasting of things beyond measure, *that is*, in other men’s labors, but having hope, *that* as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere, ¹⁶ to preach the gospel in the *regions* beyond you, *and* not to boast in another man’s sphere of accomplishment.

¹⁷ But “he who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”^[c] ¹⁸ For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.